support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

Safety of tourists is generally a State subject and the Ministry of Tourism has advised the State Governments/Union Territories for the deployment of Tourism Police at important tourist centres/destinations to ensure the safety of tourists. The Ministry of Tourism has also launched capacity building programmes for service providers ,and stakeholders to make them aware of the benefits of the tourism and the need to treat tourists with care and courtesy, under the 'Atith/Devo Bhavah campaign.

Development of surrounding areas

*387. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state, the percentage of profit made by Oil India Ltd./ONGC invested for the all round development of the area surrounding their project area in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and OIL & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have been undertaking socio-economic development programme (SEDP) for the all round development of areas surrounding their projects in various States including the State of Assam. As responsible public sector undertakings (PSUs), both companies have made it their corporate policy to earmark 0.75% of their profit after tax towards such programmes. OIL and ONGC have spent Rs. 16.39 crore and Rs. 4.72 crore respectively during the last three years towards these programmes in the State of Assam.

Air services in North East

*388. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of Tripura, particularly the students from Tripura pursuing studies in other States of the North-East are facing great troubles for not having air-flights between Agartala and Silchar and Agartala and Imphal;